

Site: M:26/10/91

Beard-Moran Cottage

Built: 1927

17 Williams Street

Private

This picturesque cottage is evocative of the English Revival and Arts and Crafts movements of the 1920s, combining Mediterranean and Old English architectural antecedents with modern materials and techniques to form a distinctive residence. This unaltered house has remained in the Beard family ownership since its construction.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/10/91

Magi No. 1651075804

DOE ☐ yes ☒ noNR eligible ☐ yes ☒ no
contrib. element in H.D. ☐

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Beard/Moran Cottage

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 17 Williams Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ms. Marguerite D. Moran

street & number 4447 Westover Place, N.W. telephone no.: 686-6961

city, town Washington state and zip code D.C.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 4620

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 858

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26-10-91

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces east on Williams, a residential street shaded by mature trees and lined with compact 1 to 2-1/2 story 1920s to 30s houses with ample setbacks. Sited on a moderately-sized square lot, the house is shaded by mature trees and well landscaped with azaleas, shrubs, dogwoods and perennial plantings. Access is by an unmortared fieldstone walk from Williams. A north-south alley provides access to the rear of the lot.

This 1927, 1-1/2 story "L"-shaped house has an English Cottage form detailed with European and Arts and Crafts influences. Built on brick foundation, it has a moderately pitched cross-gabled roof, a steep gable on the front and jerkinhead on the sides with little overhang except a small pent roof at each jerkinhead. The roof is covered with a hard, thin asbestos shingle which resembles a weathered thin wood shake. The exterior finish is stucco. An exterior brick chimney is located on the north facade.

The house features arched multi-pane windows of varying lengths, types (casement and double hung), and design (arched tracery and a fanlight window resembling a narrow Palladian window) singly or paired on the house. The arched front door is fully glazed with small panes, surrounded by dark stained wood, and outlined in alternate lengths of paired bricks used as quoins. The door leads to an interior unheated foyer. The jerkinhead roof suggesting rustic wood shakes and white stucco finish with dark brown trim completes the English cottage appearance. There is no applied decoration. Strong, simple shapes outlined with narrow, dark-colored cornice and the contrast of brick, stucco, and roof texture provide visual interest.

The three-bay east (front) facade has a three-part massing distinguished by window type, roofline, and position. The southernmost element, a two-bay sunroom projecting south, has short, wide, arched tracery casement windows and a nearly flat copper-clad roof. There are two tracery windows evenly spaced on the east side, two exterior 10-light French doors on the south side, and another tracery window on the west side of the projection.

The central four-bay portion is a steeply-pitched front-gabled ell. The ell also has arched windows, but are tall and narrow with a fanlight arch resembling a long, narrow Palladian window. A 19-light arched window is centered in the gable, protected by a wrought iron

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Description (continued) : 17 Williams

exterior grille suggesting a balcony. The ell's first story has a large multipane (45-light) window with rounded top corners in the south bay, followed by a narrow arched 19-light window, the same length as the 45-light window, in the south center bay. A longer 25-light arched window is in the north center bay, and a completely glazed 25-light wood-frame exterior outer door followed by a solid wood battened interior door is in the north bay. The door is accessed by two granite steps.

The third portion, the side jerkinhead-gabled rectangular main block of the house, is the northern-most element. It has three narrow, double sash 9/9 windows grouped as a unit on the front (east) facade.

The three-bay north main block facade has one window centered in the gable, and a single 9/9 window in each of the two east bays, first story. A pair of narrower 9/9 windows is in the west bay. There is a small rectangular window in the foundation.

The three-bay west (rear) facade has narrow 6/6 windows in the north and south bays, and a central small modern rectangular two-light casement window aligned with the flanking windows' topmost sash. A three-light basement window is in the foundation.

The three-bay south facade has one light centered in the gable. The first story has a pair of 6/6 windows in the west bay, an exterior door as the front accessed by a concrete stoop, and a short pair of six-light casement windows in the east bay. There is a three-light basement window in the foundation on either side of the door.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1927

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

This picturesque cottage is indicative of the English Revival and Arts and Crafts movement of the 1920s. Themes evocative of both Mediterranean and Old English architectural antecedents are combined with modern materials and techniques to form a distinctive residence. Constructed for "Daisey" Beard in 1927, 1/ this house remains in her family and is unaltered.

ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Arch., Community Planning
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period: Maturation and Expansion, 1873–1931
4. Resource type: single family detached residence

History and Support

Marguerite "Daisey" Prescott Beard constructed two fine examples of the picturesque cottage on the three lots she owned on Williams Street. Mrs. Beard was raised on the Prescott estate "Sycamores" near Norbeck, but was educated abroad. Her familiarity with European architectural elements is reflected in the design of this cottage. 2/

The subject house combines the fine craftsmanship, simplicity of shape, and ornamentation advocated by the Arts and Crafts movement with detailing that evokes romantic or picturesque images. The clipped gables with pents, the recessed door decorated with brick pseudo-quoining, and the use of stucco are all taken from the vocabulary of the English Plaster Cottage. The narrow arched windows, and especially the elongated window that opens to a wrought iron balcony in the front attic facade, are reminiscent of Mediterranean styles. The two

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Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 17 Williams

large multi-paned windows with their gently rounded corners are cut into the taut stucco skin of the house in modern technique but enforcing the impression of an older style.

The building is small in scale, and was nicknamed "The Cottage" to distinguish it from the several other Beard-Prescott properties in this block. 3/ Daisey and W. Harry Beard had a summer residence on an adjoining lot on Wall Street; brother Alexander Prescott resided at 301 West Montgomery. The Cottage adjoined the family-owned tennis court and was often occupied by various family members, including bachelor Prescott uncles and unmarried Beard sons. When Daisey was widowed in 1929, she sold the Wall Street house and constructed the larger stuccoed cottage at 19 Williams, where she lived until 1941. 4/ The Cottage never left the family and is now owned by her granddaughter. Though unaltered, its continued use as a rental unit has resulted in some deterioration.

Footnotes:

1. Added to the Tax Assessment Records in 1927 at a value of \$475 plus improvements of \$3,500. This house is on Lot 3 and part of Lot 4 of Williams Subdivision.
2. Beard-Prescott family histories from biographical files of Montgomery County Historical Society, newspaper abstracts (1881-1966) and Farquhar's Historic Homes of Montgomery County - "Sycamores" pp297-98.
3. Deeds, memoirs of Rockville residents and other sources refer to the property as "The Cottage" or "Daisey Beard's Cottage."

Montgomery County and City of Rockville Plats, surveys and tax records show various members of the Prescott family in several houses along West Montgomery Avenue, Wall, and Williams Streets from 1910-1940.

4. See Maryland Historical Trust Inventory form for 19 Williams Street, M:26/10/65.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Plat and Tax Assessment Records. Beard-Prescott family genealogies. Newspapers 1881-1966. Interviews with Mrs. Frank Williams, Mrs. Chapin, and Mrs. David Betts.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 14,503 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3 and part of lot 4 of Williams Subdivision as per Plat 2/169.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Cissel	Judy Christensen, Arch. Descrip.
organization	Peerless Rockville	date January 1987
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone 762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

City of Rockville

scale: 1"= 600'

M.26-10-91





17 Williams Street
Elevation

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/10/91
Beard/Moran Cottage
17 Williams St.
Rockville, Md. 20850
Richard Andrews
date:6/1987 elevation: E

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